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INSTA-SHADE

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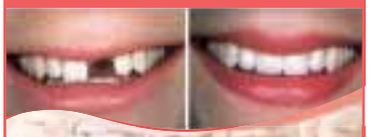

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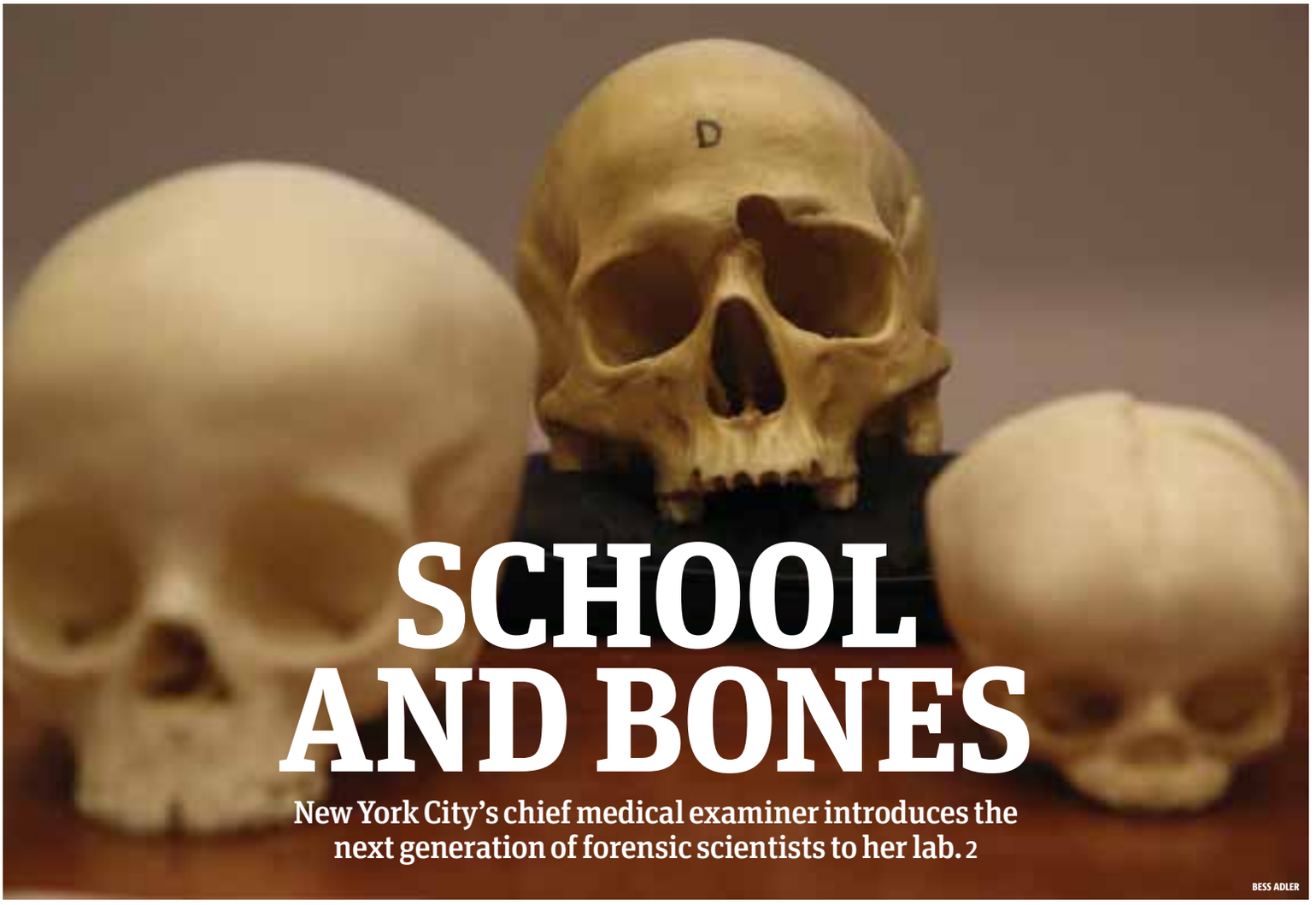

SCHOOL AND BONES

New York City's chief medical examiner introduces the next generation of forensic scientists to her lab. 2

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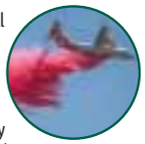
3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

WILDFIRE RAGES INTO CALIF. TOWN, BURNING HOMES, BUSINESSES



1 A rampaging wildfire that descended on a small Northern California town destroyed more than 100 homes and businesses, authorities said on Monday, as crews fought to save more dwellings from the flames. The so-called Clayton fire, which broke out on Saturday evening, was driven by fierce winds into the foothill community of Lower Lake, some 80 miles north of San Francisco, burning everything in its path and forcing hundreds of residents to flee. A damage assessment team was working to determine how many structures were lost, said Daniel Berlant of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. But he added, "we know it's well over 100," mostly homes. REUTERS

RUSSIA SAYS CLOSE TO JOINT MILITARY ACTION WITH US IN ALEPPO

2 Russia and the United States are close to starting joint military action against militants in Syria's city of Aleppo, Russian news agencies on Monday cited Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu as saying. Fighting for control of Aleppo has intensified in recent weeks and there have been some gains for rebel groups battling Syrian government forces. Shoigu's statements come as a surprise because Russia and the United States back different sides in the conflict while participating in talks to try to find a political solution. "We are now in a very active phase of negotiations with our American colleagues," the RIA news agency cited Shoigu as saying. "We are moving step by step closer to a plan — and I'm only talking about Aleppo here — that would really allow us to start fighting together to bring peace so that people can return to their homes in this troubled land." Shoigu said about 700,000 people were still living in Aleppo and that those living in the eastern part of the city were "hostages of armed groups." Russia backs President Assad in the 5-year-old Syrian conflict, while the United States wants to see Assad step down. REUTERS

US SUES UNITED FOR DENYING BENEFITS TO AIR FORCE RESERVIST

3 The U.S. government on Monday filed a lawsuit accusing United Airlines Inc. of denying employment benefits to a U.S. Air Force reservist during his military leave that it grants other workers for similar types of leave. The Department of Justice said it filed the lawsuit on behalf of Daniel Fandrei, a lieutenant colonel, against United, which is part of United Continental Holdings Inc. REUTERS

City's ME shows students the DNA of forensics

Tour of labs where deaths and crimes are investigated is intended to pique teens' interest in fast-growing field glamorized by TV shows.

ERIC GIRARD
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Forensic anthropologists Angela Soler, above, and Benjamin Figura, below, speak about forensic differentiation of bones with the high school students. Inset is a facial reconstruction model. BESS ADLER

The waning days of summer vacation aren't normally when teenagers are thinking about their career options, much less one routinely involving corpses and skeletons.

But last week, New York City Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Barbara Sampson welcomed more than 200 high school students touring the Charles S. Hirsch Center for Forensic Sciences in Manhattan, where deaths in the city are investigated.

"There's roughly 500 medical examiners in the country, and 30 of them are here," she said. "The most cutting-edge science in the nation happens right here."

The tour showed off the nation's largest DNA testing lab and was intended to generate interest in a fast-growing field that TV shows have glamorized, but still has trouble attracting enough forensic scientists.

In addition to performing autopsies, identifying missing persons, dealing with natural disasters, terrorism and helping criminal justice through science, Sampson makes it clear what her office is all about:

"We feel we have a big mission in education," she said. "This is the first time we've had the students in. We speak at schools and see so much interest from young people."

During the tour, which coincided with National Forensic Science Week, students heard from Sampson; Dr. Jennifer Hammers, deputy chief medical examiner for Brooklyn and Staten Island; and Dr. Bradley Adams, city director of forensic anthropology. Adams showed how forensic science played a role in local investigations, including solving the 2005 mob hit at the historic Kreischer Mansion homicide in Staten Island.

In the labs, students saw every step of DNA analysis, from determining whether a piece of evidence has enough DNA for testing to generating DNA profiles of criminals and missing persons.

Megan Erhardt, a 16-year-old junior from Huntington, Long Island, is aiming for a career as a forensic biologist and hoping to eventually work for the FBI.

Erhardt, who has always had a passion for science, skipped teaching summer camp to attend. She, like others, admitted that television played a role in piquing her interest in forensics.

"I watched the CSI shows," she said. "I wasn't as interested in the gory stuff as I was in DNA and how science helped solve things."

Sampson acknowledges that TV shows like "Forensic Files," "Dexter," "Criminal Minds" and "Quincy, M.E.," all mentioned by those in attendance, create interest in forensic science. She says the shows are "mostly accurate except for the time it takes to actually get things done. Occasionally, a show calls with a question, but we're not active consultants."

Chris Hill, a forensic mortuary technician at the center who lives in Manhattan, thought it was important to bring his son, Chris Hill Jr., even if it meant the 16-year-old high school junior would miss football practice at his home in Maryland.

"This was a great opportunity to see something I might want to do when I get older," Hill Jr. said.

Bianca Brandon, a science teacher at Staten Island Technical School who interned and then worked at the center earlier in her career, brought several of her students.

"I hope this can be valuable for them," she said. "By bringing them here, it brings a level of authenticity."

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Hundreds mourn slain NYC imam as police question man

The suspect was involved in a hit and run, and matches a sketch of the gunman released by police.

Funeral prayers are given over the caskets containing the bodies of Imam Maulama Akonjee and friend Thara Uddin on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

Police have arrested a man believed to have been involved in a hit-and-run crash in Brooklyn, 10 minutes and 3 miles away from where a Muslim cleric and his associate were gunned down Saturday on a street in Ozone Park, Queens, NYPD officials said.

NYPD Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce said at a news conference Monday that the vehicle in the hit and run was the same black GMC Trailblazer in which the gunman fled after shooting the two men from behind as they walked home from a prayer service at the Al-Furqan Jame Masjid Mosque.

NBC4 New York reported that police had found a gun at the suspect's home.

Using video surveillance to track the Trailblazer, NYPD located a vehicle matching its description after the hit and run.

Around 10 p.m. Sunday, a man started to get into the car. When police approached him, the suspect began to ram his car into the detectives' car, Boyce said.

An eyewitness identified the suspect as the person he saw in the vehicle that fled after the crash.

The suspect, who police described at a briefing as a Hispanic man, was being questioned about the fatal shootings of Imam Maulama Akonjee, 55, and Thara Uddin, 64.

Officials declined to give the name of the suspect or to comment on a suspected motive for the killings.

Earlier, hundreds of mourners gathered in New York City on Monday for the outdoor funeral for the imam and his associate who were gunned down over the weekend in what many in their Bangladeshi community believe was a hate crime.

Traditional Islamic services for Akonjee and Uddin drew a large crowd to a parking area near where the men were killed.

Speaker after speaker at the funeral implored law enforcement to investigate the murders as hate crimes and step up efforts to protect sections of the city like Ozone Park where many Muslims live and work.

"We want justice," Badrul Kahn, founder of the Al-Furqan mosque and its chief adviser, shouted to the crowd in the service's opening speech. "We want justice," responded the mourners, most of them men dressed in Islamic garb.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, addressing the funeral, promised that the city would bolster the police presence in the neighborhood even though the motive behind the killings was still unclear.

"We don't know what happened but we will," the mayor said. "An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us."

Police had released a sketch of a male suspect with dark hair, a beard and glasses. NBC reported the man being questioned matched the description.

Police have said there was no evidence the men were targeted because of their faith.

Even so, the victims appeared to have been targeted by a gunman who stalked them and shot them in the head at close range at about 1:50 p.m. Saturday, police said.

REUTERS ; KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ARTICLE.

Schumer enlists 'Hamilton' star to push ticket bot bill

Sen. Chuck Schumer has launched a new effort to convince federal lawmakers to pass legislation cracking down on ticket scalpers who use online bots to purchase thousands of tickets that are then resold at heavily increased prices.

On Sunday, Schumer, standing alongside "Hamilton" creator and performer Lin-Manuel Miranda, announced his effort to back a federal proposal called the Better Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016, or BOTS Act, which aimed to prevent the use of online bots by ticket-buyers to circumvent rules meant to allow concertgoers a fair chance to buy tickets, the senator stated.

"It's plain and simple, we need to sweep the stage of bots so that actual fans can enjoy 'Hamilton,' other hit Broadway shows and major concerts," Schumer stated. "Hackers and other bad actors are taking advantage of fans, and we need to put a stop to it."

"Hackers and other bad actors are taking advantage of fans, and we need to put a stop to it."
Schumer

Bots are computer programs that purchase thousands of event tickets in a matter of seconds, leaving customers no choice but to make purchases at secondary ticket markets, which have increased prices, Schumer explained. Between 2012 and 2014, three ticket scalpers in the New York area bought more than 140,000 tickets using bots, and Ticketmaster has estimated that bots may purchase a full 60 percent of online tickets.

"My concern is that our show is about the founding of our country, and if bots are buying up all the tickets and charging this insane secondary market price, most of the country can't see it," Miranda told the New York Post.

The BOTS Act would impose large fines on users of bot software and "put them out of business," Schumer said in the Post. JASON NUCKOLLS

Lin-Manuel Miranda in "Hamilton;" to the left is Sen. Charles Schumer GETTY IMAGES

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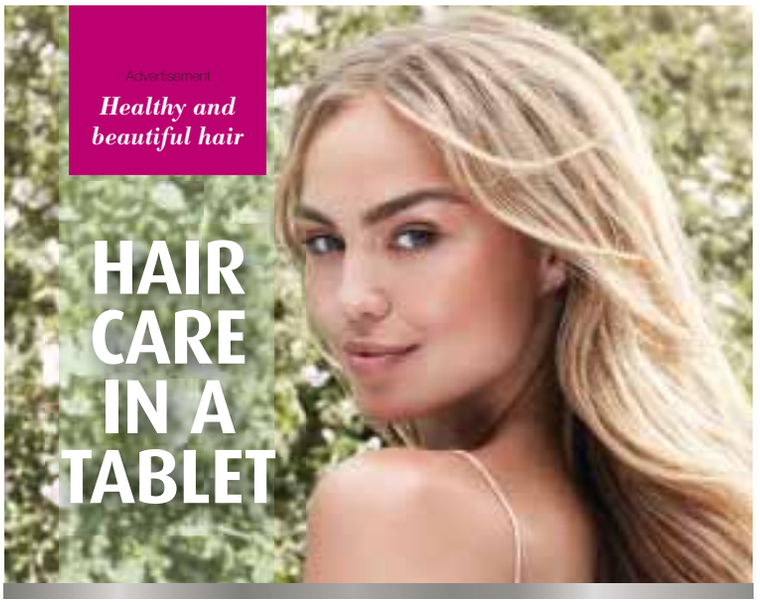

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GROPER

NYPD: Man groped 8-year-old twice at Bronx subway station
Police are looking for a man who they say grabbed an 8-year-old girl's buttocks twice as she followed her mother up the stairs at a Bronx subway station.

Around 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 2, inside the East 149th Street and Grand Concourse station, a girl was walking behind her mother on the steps between the 2 train and 4 train platforms when a man grabbed her buttocks from behind, police stated.

After the second time, the man told her he was "sorry" before running back toward the southbound 4 train, police added. Authorities released a sketch of the man wanted for questioning.

Police described the man as Hispanic and about 30 years old, 5-foot-6 to 5-foot-8 and weighing 160 to 175 pounds. He had straight black hair with a light goatee and beard and was last seen wearing glasses, a blue Yankees T-shirt and black jeans.

JASON NUCKOLLS

NYC woman pleads guilty to leading gun-trafficking ring

Natasha Harris pleaded guilty to 17 counts.

KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

A Brooklyn-based gun trafficking leader has pleaded guilty to her role in an operation that funneled firearms from Florida to New York City — often beneath Chinatown buses, officials said.

Natasha Harris pleaded guilty to 17 counts including several counts of criminal sale of a firearm and criminal possession of a weapon, according to the state attorney general's office.

The November 2015 bust yielded more than 70 illegal guns — from .22 caliber pistols to a Tec 9 — bought at gun shows in Florida, many of which were then resold in New York for up to four times their original price, officials said. As a result of the investigation, known as "Operation Midnight Run," eight members of the trafficking ring were charged with numerous counts of conspiracy, criminal possession and criminal sale of firearms.

"Natasha Harris led a dangerous gun trafficking ring that used Chinatown buses as a method to bring guns into our communities and fuel the epidemic of gun violence," New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman said. "Today's guilty plea sends a clear message — if you bring deadly illegal weapons into our state, we will catch you and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law."

Harris is expected to be sentenced to 15 years in prison.

NYPD: Pair of men robbing Manhattan taxis in traffic

Police are looking for at least two men in connection to a Manhattan robbery pattern in which taxis are robbed while the drivers are stopped in traffic.

Around 4:40 p.m. on Sunday, July 10, two men got into a taxi at 400 Fifth Ave. and asked to be taken to the Bronx, police reported. The two then took the driver's iPhone 6S from the seat and cash from the driver's shirt pocket and fled.

Surveillance of the suspects NYPD

On Saturday, July 16, around 10 p.m., a taxi driver at the corner of Sixth Avenue and West 38th Street said the two suspects entered his car and grabbed cash from the armrest, police stated. A third person was involved in a similar incident the following Monday when a taxi driver reported cash was stolen from his center console by three individuals as he was dropping off passengers at 349 Fifth Ave. In both robberies, the suspects fled on foot.

On Friday, July 22, around 10:35 a.m. in front of 853 Broadway, two men approached a taxi on opposite sides as it was stopped in traffic, according to police. As one of them punched the driver through the open driver-side window, the second one opened the passenger-side door and took cash from the cup holder before fleeing on foot on West 14th Street.

At 11:20 a.m. on the same Friday, the two men entered a taxi at 894 Sixth Ave. and took a driver's backpack from the front passenger seat, police added.

Police described the individuals as black men in their late teens to mid-20s with slims builds and medium complexions. One of them has a tattoo of the Batman logo on the inside of his left arm.

Anyone with information should call the NYPD Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS or, for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA. The public can also submit their tips by logging on to the Crime Stoppers website at NYPDCrimeStoppers.com.

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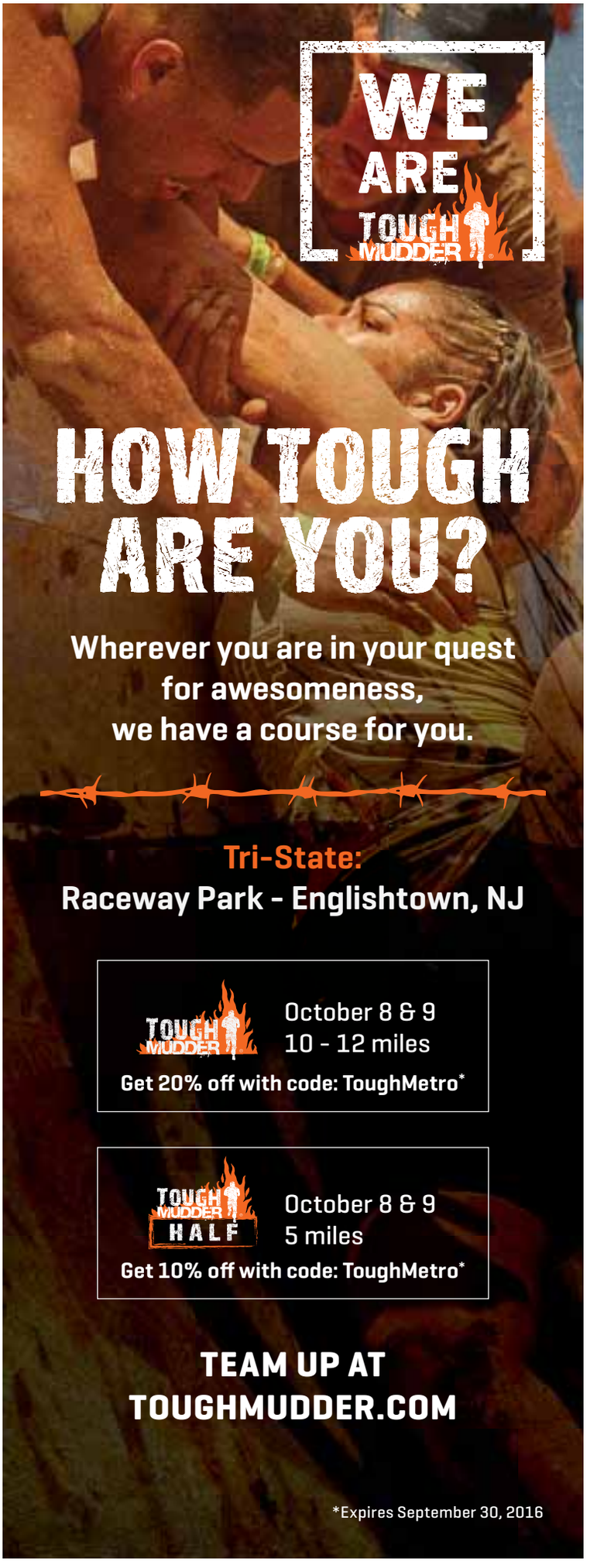
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Flooding disaster that killed seven in Louisiana now menaces Texas

The Louisiana National Guard has rescued nearly 3,400 people and 400 pets during search and rescue operations due to heavy flash flooding in 12 parishes. LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD

Flooding in Texas was a concern on Monday with a flood watch extended from Houston to the Hill Country region in the central part of the state.

Overwhelmed rivers in much of southern Louisiana receded slowly from record levels on Monday while crews in boats searched for more people stranded in inundated homes after three days of torrential rains that killed seven people.

While the threat of flash flooding moved west into Texas, more than 11,000 Louisianans have signed up for disaster assistance. Many are waiting for the flood waters to drain away so they can determine what can be salvaged from their sodden homes and businesses.

Emergency crews already have rescued more than 20,000 people and continued to search for more after a storm dumped more than 2 feet of rain in three days.

Aerial photographs on Sunday showed houses inundated in mud-colored water with only their roofs visible while the bridge over the Amite River around Port Vincent, Louisiana, was almost underwater. People had become trapped overnight in their cars when the water rose on Saturday over parts of a major interstate around Baton Rouge.

While some rivers were receding on Monday, others downstream were still cresting.

"The water started rising three or four days ago and it's still coming up right now," said Lonnie Wells, 59, as he stood on flooded state highway in French Settlement, a town in southern Livingston Parish.

Wells said he would try to ride out the floods with his chickens, rabbits, goats and dogs, although neighbors urged him to flag down a passing Louisiana National Guard truck to get out.

The Louisiana flooding, which prompted President Barack Obama to issue a disaster declaration, resulted in seven deaths, National Weather Service meteorologist Jennifer McNatt said.

"It is going to take a while for that water to make its way out."

McNatt

Four occurred when people drove vehicles into high waters.

"It is going to take a while for that water to make its way out," McNatt, who is based in Fort Worth, Texas, said in a telephone interview.

Rivers in Louisiana crested at record levels in multiple places, with the Amite River reaching 46.2 feet in Denham Springs, 5 feet higher than a 1983 record, McNatt said.

In flood-ravaged Livingston Parish, scores of people woke up on Monday in packed emergency shelters, sprawled out wherever they could find room. Emergency rescuers worked through the night to bring to safety people who were still stranded in roads in the middle of subdivisions, surrounded by flood water.

REUTERS

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Family rescues Idaho girl from jaws of mountain lion

The 4-year-old girl suffered minor injuries from the attack near a hot springs in eastern Idaho, state wildlife officials said.

GETTY IMAGES

Idaho wildlife managers on Monday praised family members who charged a mountain lion and rescued a young girl from the jaws of the animal which was attempting to drag her off for the kill.

"She was literally in the mouth of the mountain lion when the quick thinking and heroic reactions of her mother and other adults saved her life," said Gregg Losinski, conservation educator with the state Department of Fish and Game. "The cat dropped her and backed off."

Losinski said the girl and her young cousins had been put down for a nap in a tent early Friday evening when the child strayed from the campsite and was almost immediately pounced upon by the big cat, also known as a cougar.

The lion had the girl in its jaws and was trying to drag her from the campsite when her mother and other relatives screamed and shouted as they charged the animal, which fled, Losinski said. The name of the girl and her family were not immediately disclosed, although authorities said they were from Idaho.

The family contacted authorities shortly after the attack, which left the girl with scratches, Losinski said. Fish and Game enlisted the aid of a hunter with hounds to track the lion suspected in the incident and local sheriff's deputies ultimately shot and killed it.

It is rare for mountain lions to attack people and even rarer for one to kill a human, with fatal attacks occurring about once every seven or eight years in the United States and Canada, he said.

No one in Idaho has been killed by a mountain lion in at least a century, even though the animals, which are subject to regulated hunting, number in the thousands in the state, said Losinski.

A mountain lion last injured a person in Idaho in 2011 when a boy was swiped by a cougar that had killed the child's pet dog. The only other known case involved a 12-year-old boy on the Salmon River in the early 1990s, according to the Department of Fish and Game. REUTERS

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BRIEF

Republicans seek Trump presidency votes in Israel

The Israeli branch of the Republican Party began a campaign on Monday to get American voters living in Israel to cast absentee ballots in favor of Donald Trump.

According to the Israeli chapter of the Republican Party, around 300,000 Americans are eligible to vote. They live in Israel or in settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Marc Zell, the head of Republicans Overseas Israel branch, said the campaign aimed to rekindle interest in U.S. politics among second- and third-generation citizens, many of whom have children who will be eligible to vote for the first time.

"We want to try to attract new voters who perhaps in the past had no special interest in voting in the U.S. elections," Zell told Reuters.

Tzvika Brot, who is heading the campaign, estimated that about three-quarters of American-Israelis would support the Republican Party. A Democratic Party representative in Israel disputed that estimate, telling Israel Radio the majority of Israeli and U.S. Jewish voters had always preferred the Democrats. REUTERS

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Fix campaign or step aside, Wall Street Journal tells Trump

Trump has alienated his party and failed to establish a competent campaign operation, the paper said in an editorial.

Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

Republican Donald Trump should fix his stumbling White House campaign in the next three weeks or step down, The Wall Street Journal said on Monday in a sharply worded warning from a leading conservative voice.

The Journal's editorial board, which generally favors Republicans, has been critical of Trump and has questioned his conservative credentials, but its warning on Monday was its strongest attack yet. It echoed growing alarm about Trump's candidacy among many leading Republicans who have been slow to embrace him or have completely distanced themselves.

The New York real estate developer, who has never held elected office, has been mired in weeks of controversy and opinion polls show him falling behind Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in the race for the Nov. 8 election.

The Journal urged Trump's backers to push the candidate to conduct himself with a more presidential demeanor and begin running a more disciplined campaign.

"If they can't get Mr. Trump to change his act by Labor Day, the GOP will have no choice but to write off the nominee as hopeless and focus on salvaging the Senate and House and other down-ballot races," it said.

Labor Day, which falls on Sept. 5 this year, marks the end of summer vacations and traditionally launches the final phase of the long election season.

"As for Mr. Trump, he needs to stop blaming everyone else and decide if he wants to behave like someone who wants to be president — or turn the nomination over to Mike Pence," it said, referring to the Indiana governor, who is Trump's vice presidential running mate.

Trump has repeatedly provoked controversy in the weeks since his formal nomination as the Republican presidential candidate in July, despite appeals from party leaders for him to focus on issues that could win him the election.

He picked a fight with the parents of a Muslim U.S. Army captain who was killed in Iraq and falsely accused President Barack Obama and Clinton of being "co-founders" of Islamic State. He later said he was being sarcastic but has continued to repeat the remark.

In an effort to right his campaign, Trump will deliver his second policy speech in as many weeks on Monday, this time an address on foreign policy. Speaking in Youngstown, Ohio, he will outline his plan to defeat Islamic State.

Most controversially, Trump has long said he will impose a temporary ban on Muslims entering the country, and has said he would "knock the hell out" of Islamic State. REUTERS

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GUT CHECK TIME

TOM FOREMAN
Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the book "My Year of Running Dangerously." @tomforemancnn

In the summer heat, the presidential race has seemed at times like an egg cooking on the sidewalk: plenty of sizzle but not going anywhere. That's finally changed. Polls are moving, the candidates are retrenching. Here are my three things to watch this week in politics:

1. HEADING FOR DIVORCE COURT?
Mainstream Republicans have been uneasy for months about the potentially damaging effect of Donald Trump as their nominee. Now it is turning to panic. Democratic skirmishers are forcing them to defend even screamingly red states such as Utah and Georgia, and in D.C. cafes Hillary Clinton's loyalists are all but picking curtains for their new offices as they lounge over iced coffee with soy milk. Some are even whispering the word "landslide." In this crazy election, they could yet be completely wrong. But the rift in the Republican family is growing noticeably deeper as strategists talk less about the presidential race, and more about trying to hold onto the House and Senate. Right now it feels like a trial separation, but if the candidate and his party don't get cozy again soon it could turn into a nasty, plate breaking, political divorce.

2. CAN WE TALK?
Their newly released tax returns show that the Clintons get paid well every time they agree to talk. Scratch that. I mean, insanely well. The couple scored $6.7 million in speaking fees alone last year with many of those appearances involving big money players in a variety of businesses. That will have Republicans and watchdog groups howling about conflicts of interest this week and, hmm — bringing up her secret bank speeches again? Yeah. Probably.

Jill Stein GETTY IMAGES

3. HEY, WHAT ABOUT ME?
If you still hate your major party choices in this race, CNN will be hosting a town hall with the Green Party pick Jill Stein and her presumptive running mate, Ajamu Baraka. It's happening Wednesday night, and considering how many people dislike the front-runners, who knows? Could be a lot of viewers.

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Martin Luther King Jr.'s heirs end Nobel medal dispute

Martin Luther King Jr.'s heirs have agreed to end their legal fight over who owns the slain civil rights leader's 1964 Nobel Peace Prize medal, according to a court document filed on Monday, but did not disclose if the item will be sold.

A trial to settle the years-long dispute over the medal had been set to start in Atlanta on Monday. It would have pitted King's two sons against his surviving daughter, who were at odds over whether to sell the medal.

The three siblings serve as directors of a corporation formed to manage the estate of King, who had no will when he was assassinated in 1968 by a white supremacist in Memphis, Tennessee.

Martin Luther King III and Dexter King voted in January 2014 to sell the medal and a Bible their father carried during the civil rights movement in the 1960s. Bernice King objected to a sale, calling the heirlooms "sacred" to the family.

Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney had ordered the items to be kept in a court-controlled safe deposit box pending the outcome of the lawsuit.

The judge on Monday signed an order in which the parties asked for the suit to be dismissed and agreed the keys to the box should be given to Martin Luther King III, who serves as chairman of the estate board.

The judge said in court he did not know any further details of the settlement.

Lawyers for the estate and Bernice King were not in court and did not respond to requests for comment.

Last month, McBurney ruled that the Bible, which President Barack Obama used in his second inauguration, belonged to the estate.

Former President Jimmy Carter was one of the mediators who had worked to secure a resolution of the lawsuit. Prospects for a settlement had been described as fair to poor, according to a court summary.

In its lawsuit against Bernice King, the estate said she signed a 1995 agreement giving control of King's possessions to the estate. But she said the estate never sent her a list of items to be turned over, as required in the settlement of a lawsuit over that agreement. REUTERS

Dexter King, Rev. Bernice King and Martin Luther King III GETTY IMAGES

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Tensions high In Milwaukee

Police officers patrol the BP gas station on Monday in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. GETTY IMAGES

Texas judge tosses GM ignition-switch lawsuit

A Texas judge has thrown out a lawsuit against General Motors from a woman who blamed a 2012 car crash on a faulty ignition switch that later prompted the company to recall 2.6 million vehicles.

The Aug. 13 order from Judge Robert Schaffer in Harris County, Texas, came in a 2013 case brought by Gloria Alexander that the automaker had selected as the second test trial amid 20 similar cases in that state court over the ignition switch.

The first bellwether trial, picked by plaintiffs' lawyers, began last week. That case involves a man who had faced criminal charges in connection with a fatal accident he blamed on the ignition switch.

GM had argued that Alexander's case had no expert testimony to support allegations the defective switch caused her 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt to veer out of control and strike a concrete barrier before being hit by a pickup truck.

A lawyer for Alexander, Angel Hagmaier, called the decision disappointing. She noted that GM previously admitted as part of an agreement to end a U.S. criminal investigation that some of its employees knew about problems with the ignition switch for more than a decade before taking action.

If the switch slips out of position, it can cut power to steering, air bags, brakes and other vehicle systems. GM had argued that because the air bags deployed in Alexander's vehicle, the ignition switch must have been functioning properly at the time.

The judge did not elaborate in his one-page order on why he granted GM's motion. A GM spokesman, Jim Cain, said in a statement that the ruling was the "right call."

REUTERS

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Kadenze brings arts education to the masses

Columbia University and Berklee College of Music are the latest schools to join forces with the innovative arts education site.

HELEN MURPHY
@MetroNewYork
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Kadenze brings the best arts education classes, resources and professors together into one website. ISTOCK

In May 2015, the first graduates of Berklee College of Music's online bachelor's degree program walked across a (real, not virtual) stage in Boston. At the time, the program was one of the first arts-education degrees that could be earned entirely online, making music education accessible to a wider audience. But what about other types of arts education?

Enter Kadenze (pronounced "kah-denzay"), a for-profit online portal that unites the best arts education classes, resources and professors on one website. Pulling from universities around the globe, Kadenze offers MOOCs (massive open online courses) in coding, visual art, music and art history. The website partners with 26 schools including Princeton University, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Pratt Institute and, most recently, Columbia University and Berklee.

Kadenze co-founder Ajay Kapur notes the important role the two most recent additions have played in the growth of online education. In a 2013 study, Teachers College at Columbia found that roughly a third of all college students were enrolled in online courses, a sizable increase from 2010.

The high cost of a creative education

Kapur says the idea for Kadenze stemmed from two problems in arts education: the growing cost of higher education and that the influx in research about online education had been mostly geared toward online classes for math and science students.

That college education is increasingly expensive isn't news to most people, but Kapur especially noticed the detrimental effect of rising costs within the arts.

Courses may be taken for credit by students working toward a degree, or simply as résumé-builders.

"We are seeing a lot of users who already have a college degree, and we're entering this age where people just really want to continue learning — some of our most popular courses are in the areas of design and creative coding … it helps them push people to where they want to get to in the next phase of their career," Kapur says.

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Classes on Kadenze are conducted through video-based lectures and collaboration on group discussion boards.

"The thing that's very special about Kadenze is that it's not only the teacher that you learn from; you end up learning from the global community that is submitting assignments and is really part of the discussion, and that's what makes it so fun," Kapur says.

Premium membership to Kadenze is $10 a month and allows students to receive grades, college credits and build an online portfolio, while free membership allows students to take classes in a more passive manner.

All of the courses Kadenze offers focus on harnessing individual creativity.

"Being creative, being a designer, being a creative thinker — these are all things that are necessary for innovation and leadership in the world," Kapur says.

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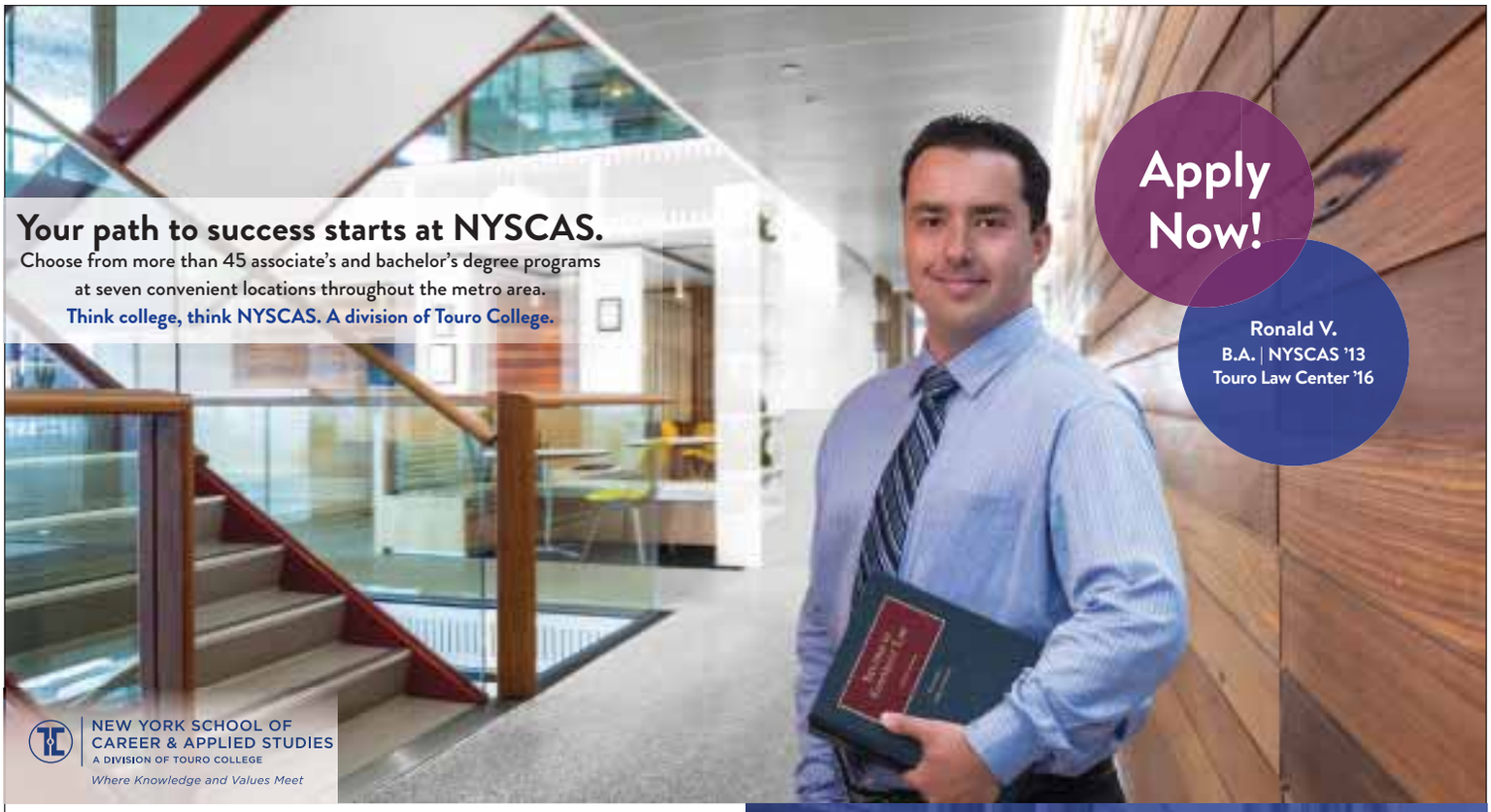
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- **HVAC and Refrigeration Technology.** Through this program, you will gain the knowledge and hands-on experience you need to professionally install, operate and repair commercial, industrial and residential climate control equipment, and prepare you to obtain HVAC certification. Choose to earn your associate degree or a certificate.
- **Automotive Technology.** Combining theory with hands-on experience at our state-of-the-art automotive shop on campus, you'll learn how to maintain, repair, overhaul and modify motor vehicles, understand work orders, technical bulletins and cost estimates, and interpret warranty policy in terms of service reports, component failures and analysis records.
- **Ophthalmic Dispensing.** This program provides the knowledge and hands-on skills you need to become an optician, the eye care professional who fills prescriptions for corrective eyewear, through training on state-of-the-art instrumentation and machinery, and grants you eligibility for entrance to the New York State professional licensing examination for ophthalmic dispensing upon completion.

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That list has grown in response to industry trends, and student goals. In the last year alone, BMCC students have been able to choose new majors such as Sociology, Modern Languages, Animation and Motion Graphics, History, Gerontology, Psychology and Science for Health Professionals.

Students have access to free tutoring and benefit from BMCC's location in the heart of Lower Manhattan, close to every major subway line. They learn inside and outside the classroom; taking part in field research and completing corporate internships. Students present at conferences and work on grant-funded projects alongside professors who are biologists, computer scientists, artists, sociologists and leaders in their fields.

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BMCC is one of 24 colleges and universities within the highly esteemed CUNY system, and BMCC's affordability is assured by the CUNY Safety Net — low tuition, federal and state aid, and federal tax credits easing the burden on the middle class.

Take charge of your future. Enroll now at BMCC and take advantage of a solid value for a quality education.

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Selena and the Biebs: It's getting ugly

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The Jelena saga is getting ugly. But, the internet has spoken and it's #TeamSelena all the way.

When Biebs posted a series of selfies with alleged girlfriend Sofia Richie on Instagram, his Beliebers weren't very happy and reportedly started being "so mean" to the 17-year-old model. So, the "Sorry" singer threatened to make his account private.

Shortly after Bieber's post, the hashtag #RIPBeliebers started trending.

But just as the Beliebers were slowly coming to terms with the Biebs' ungrateful behavior, Selena Gomez shared some words of wisdom on Instagram. Suddenly, Beliebers became Seleners or the proper term "Selenators," after she basically accused Bieber of disrespecting his fans.

After Selly put her ex on blast, the trending topic changed to #SelenaEndedJustinParty.

The drama didn't end there. Even though Gomez seemingly won this battle, Bieber didn't back down. So, he fired back, accusing Gomez of using him for attention!

Clearly, Biebs forgot that Gomez was Alex Russo from "Wizards of Waverly Place" in 2009, while he was still posting YouTube videos. Tsk, tsk!

But then Gomez got super personal and accused the Biebs of cheating on her.

Selly then wanted to throw one last shot at and posted an Instagram collage of her fans.

Bieber's response: "I cheated...oh I forgot about you and Zayn."

At press time this is the last in the feud: Someone take their phones away from them.

Adele won't be playing the Super Bowl after all

Turns out the singer won't be saying "hello" from the outside after all. Adele set the record straight last weekend during her Staples Center concert in L.A., telling audience members, "First of all, I'm not doing the Super Bowl. I mean, come on, that show is not about music. And I don't really … I can't dance or anything like that. They were very kind, they did ask me, but I said no."

However, the NFL and halftime show sponsor Pepsi have both officially denied asking Adele to perform, going as far to release a joint statement noting: "The NFL and Pepsi are big fans of Adele. We have had conversations with several artists about the Pepsi Super Bowl halftime show. However, we have not at this point extended a formal offer to Adele or anyone else." Shade.

Rumors that Adele would follow in the footsteps of Bruno Mars, Beyonce and Katy Perry started last week when U.K. tabloid The Sun reported that the singer had been asked, but was wary of accepting.

Shah Rukh Khan has a good use for Pokémon Go

Even when you're stuck, there's always Pokémon Go.

Shah Rukh Khan may be the most famous Bollywood actor in the world, but that doesn't mean the red carpet is rolled out for him everywhere — namely, at U.S. airports. "I fully understand and respect security with the way the world is, but to be detained at U.S. immigration every damn time really really sucks," he tweeted.

But when life hands Khan lemons, he (presumably) does a peppy dance number about making lemonade. Or, in this case, the next best thing: "The brighter side is while waiting caught some really nice Pokemons."

Alas, it's not just security staffers who don't recognize the actor. Khan posted a heartfelt message on Instagram just a week ago revealing he's become a bit emotionally invested in catching 'em all. "Feeling extremely inadequate, unattractive & lonely. Been on the road for 45 mins & not one Pokemon has come to me. Not even a Pidgey or a Rattata."

An existential crisis about a video game? Stars ARE just like us!

Kendall Jenner's horrifying stalker encounter

Imagine coming home late at night and seeing a stranger waiting for you in the dark. That's exactly what happened to 20-year-old model and "Keeping Up With The Kardashians" star Kendall Jenner at her recently purchased home in Hollywood Hills on Sunday night.

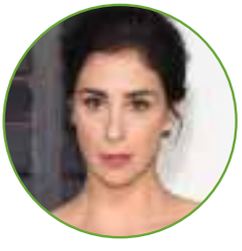
TMZ reports that as she approached her house, she saw a man standing by the driveway gate. As she drove through, he followed close behind and entered the property on foot.

Terrified, Jenner called the police and didn't leave her car until the scary situation was resolved.

The man was arrested for stalking. There was already a warrant out for his arrest, according to TMZ.

Looks like being famous isn't always a walk in the park, or the driveway.

@chrissyteigen
I like to piss john off all Olympics by going "I could do that" as he watches and I stare at my phone



@SarahKSilverman
"Accidentally" leaving the customer copy of a bill behind so I see his bad tip & have a heart attack IS MY DAD'S JOY

@chelseahandler
I've spent the better part of the weekend exercising or hanging out with married couples. It's either time for a boyfriend, or a joint.

@ElizabethBanks
Is every sports bra a straight jacket when it comes time to remove it? Just me? I was trapped in one for 10 minutes.

the word

Why Knee And Hip Arthritis Pain Sufferers Are Flocking To This Manhattan Medical Clinic To Relieve Pain And Avoid Joint Replacement Surgery

Knee Arthritis Pain Breakthrough?

Real Doctor's Advice On The Most Advanced Medical Treatments For Knee Arthritis Pain

"The Knee Arthritis Treatment Everyone Is Talking About..."

By Matt Edgar
America's Heath Writer

NYC - Modern medicine has come a long way.

The success stories and lives saved are endless.

And now, through advanced technology and science - skilled medical doctors are helping more knee and hip arthritis pain sufferers than ever before.

In just a moment, I'm going to reveal some of these incredible arthritis pain techniques...

So you can possibly relive some or all of your pain...

Just like thousands of others already have.

I bet many of these former arthritis pain sufferers were just like *you*.

But first, I have to tell you about this - it's very important information so you can make the very best decision about relieving your arthritis pain.

It will also help you avoid costly and painful mistakes.

Ready for some great arthritis pain relief information? Ok, here we go...

The Two Arthritis Treatment Paths...

The first thing to understand, is that there are basically two treatment paths you can choose to go down when you are looking for relief to knee or hip arthritis pain.

One path is non-surgical. You do not want surgery (who does!) so you do everything you can to avoid it.

You take pain pills, do physical therapy and exercises and maybe you even changed you diet.

Nothing worked. The pain progressively got worse until you couldn't stand it anymore.

Because you did not get the proper treatment - your joints decayed past the point of no return. Now they are basically "bone on bone" and the doctor told you there is no other option. You need...

The Dreaded...

joint replacement surgery.

I will admit - some people do need joint replacement surgery.

This procedure has come a very long way in recent years.

For some, at a certain point, this is the way to go.

But - and this is a very big but... even though this procedure has improved dramatically... it is not without risk.

In fact, a $500 million verdict in a lawsuit was just awarded to patients who received faulty hip implants during hip replacement surgery.

Some of the damage being reported from the faulty hip replacements sounds horrific.

There is no doubt, joint replacement surgery should be your last resort.

But too many people think they need joint replacement surgery when you do not.

In fact, many respond extremely well to a medical treatment approach that is finally becoming much more popular.

This is...

Treatment Path #2

This treatment path is non-surgical but it probably NOT what you are thinking.

It is NOT pain pills and grueling exercises. We think it is...

Much better

It is a treatment that actually puts vital lubricating gel directly into your arthritic knee or hip joint.

This is extremely important because when you have arthritis, you lose lubricating fluid in your joints.

In other words, your joints basically "dry up."

This causes joint surfaces to rub together causing all kinds of problems including brutal PAIN.

As time goes on - the joint wears out more and more and the pain can be excruciating.

The medical procedure I am speaking about is called... viscosupplementation. During this procedure a FDA approved gel-like medicine is placed directly into the joint space.

This allows the joint to glide freely and move much better again.

This decreases the abnormal rubbing and wear and tear and, in many cases, decreases or even eliminates pain.

Sounds Great Right?

It does. But... viscosupplementation has not worked for many people.

There are two very important reasons why:

If you have knee or hip arthritis pain and want to relieve your pain without surgery - or if you have already tried viscosupplementation without good results - what you are about to discover will be extremely important...

The first reason some people did not get good results with viscosupplementation is... bluntly... this is a real medical procedure done by real medical doctors.

This is NOT a "wonder cure" sold by slick marketers.

In the real world of medicine and science, no treatments work 100% of the time or on everyone. And no good and ethical doctor would make such a claim or guarantee any results what-so-ever.

So, there are some people that will not get results with this treatment.

Reason #2

To assure the best possible results, this treatment requires expensive advanced technology and a skilled medical doctor with experience doing this procedure.

For this treatment to have the best chance to work, the lubricating gel must be placed precisely into the joint space. Thats why **"Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology"**or PATT is always used. PATT uses a special medical camera and fluorosocpic imaging to guide the procedure and make sure the gel-like medicine gets exactly where you need it.

Many doctors doing this procedure do not use this advanced digital imaging and do these procedure either under ultrasound or "blind."

No Difference?

They say there is no difference - but research shows that doctors doing joint injections without being guided by the proper imaging ***completely miss the joint space about one third of the time.***

And because treatments are so precise - most patients report they are also painless.

Now that you know the facts - would you choose a doctor who uses advanced digital imaging to guide the treatment - or one who injects you blind?

Can you see why this treatment has not worked for so many? And can you see why, with the Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology and a doctor who has already done thousands of these procedures - ***it could work for you?***

That's why so many knee and hip arthritis sufferers are flocking to a medical clinic in NYC called "NY Pain Relief MD" that focusses on helping patients relieve their knee and hip arthritis pain and get back to doing all the things they want to do - like playing golf, walking without pain, tennis and many others.

But one of the biggest successes is when patients who were told they needed joint replacement surgery cancel the surgery because they feel so much better.

They get such great results because they use advanced digital imaging (PATT) to guide their treatments, their doctors are specially trained and have performed THOUSANDS of treatments and they use multiple brands of lubricating gels (many doctors only use one they have a "relationship" with).

But that's not all - for difficult cases, they also add advanced PRP and Stem cell treatments with often wonderful results.

Every patient is unique and they have a very unique treatment plan for every single patient so you can get the best possible results in the shortest amount of time.

Here's How To Find Out If We Can Help You

If you have knee or hip arthritis pain and would like to find out if the treatments at NY Pain MD can help you - you can come in for a risk-free no-obligation screening.. During this screening you will get a chance to ask questions and find out if you are a candidate for these advanced medical treatments - and what your best options are. The screening is completely free with no further obligation.

After your screening, you will breath a big sigh or relief knowing what your options are and the best way to deal with your pain.

If you are not sure - I know exactly how you feel. Arthritis pain is brutal. And it is hard to get straight answers.

So many patients felt the same way.

They told us they they had given up until they read some information just like this and they came in to see us.

Then their life changed so fast - it was incredible

Give us a call right now at 855-456-PAIN and schedule your free screening.

The worst thing that can happened is you find out this treatment is not for you.

But what if we really can help you?

What if we really can get rid of some of all your pain?

What would that be worth you you?

If it is worth a couple hours of your time - give us a call.

NY Pain Relief MD
65 Broadway Suite 1004
New York, N.Y.
800-227-KNEE (5633)
(Med Director: G Craig)

NYC PAIN MD

Why Is This Treatment In Such High Demand?

"Precision Arthritis Targeting" Technology

There are many big medical clinics in NYC. In fact, New York offers some of the best medical care in the world.

With so many great options - **why are knee arthritis sufferers flocking to NY Pain Relief MD?**

There are several reasons. The first is what we can "Precision Targeted Knee Pain Technology."

Here's what that means and why it is so important to you.

This treatment places a medical lubricating and cushioning gel directly into the arthritic knee joint. This helps the knee glide more smoothly decreasing or eliminating pain.

Precision Arthritis Targeted Technology Or PATT means that we use extremely advanced digital imaging to make sure this lubricating gel is placed precisely where it is supposed to go. This means treatments have the best chance for success.

Doing this procedure without this advanced technology often leads to misplaced lubricating gel and failure.

Another secret to success is using multiple treatments to maximize pain relief and healing. NY Pain MD uses multiple brands of lubricating gels and also offers stem cell therapy and platelet rich plasma (PRP). PRP is being used by top professional athletes in an attempt to heal injuries faster. The combination of these treatments can often get incredible results when other treatments have failed.

While many clinics only offer one of these treatments - NY Pain Relief Md offers them all under one roof for maximum results and convenience.

And just as important is the experience of NY Pain MD Relief doctors. NY Pain Relief MD doctors are experts at this procedure and have successfully done thousands.

Ben Foster, left, and Chris Pine play brothers who go on an epic bank robbing jag in "Hell or High Water," now in theaters. CBS FILMS

Ben Foster has some fun

An actor known for playing intense gets to play a fun psycho in "Hell or High Water."

MATT PRIGGE
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Ben Foster loves him some "Hell or High Water." And that's not just because it's his new movie. The acclaimed actor, 35, is picky, especially when it comes to watching his own films. A rare exception is the low-budget thriller, which takes an alternately pitiless and hilarious look at two ne'er-do-wells (Foster and Chris Pine) who embark on a marathon of bank robberies in Texas, unaware they're being pursued by a methodical Texas Ranger (Jeff Bridges).

GETTY IMAGES

You've done unusually intense preparation for some roles. Did you have to do anything approaching intense for this?
It was a very aggressive diet of whiskey and hamburgers. I trained hard for it. [Laughs] Tanner [his character] is an animal. He's a man who enjoys his appetites. So I indulged some myself.

You've played psychos before. But more than the others, Tanner enjoys being bad.
I agree. He enjoys his life. He enjoys the transience of this human experience to the hilt. He knows he's not going to get out alive. It ain't gonna end pretty. So, in the meanwhile, whee!

He seems fun to play.
I've never had as much fun on a gig as I did on this one.

This isn't a comedy, but I laughed more at this than I do most comedies. You don't do a lot of funny movies. Do you want people sending you more comedy scripts?
I don't really watch a whole lot of movies, but I'd rather watch Louis C.K. or "Arrested Development" than most dramas. I don't have a bias for comedies. It depends on what crosses my table. I sure like to laugh more than anything. It might be better than sex. Funny sex might be the best.

How often do you get scripts of this quality?
I'd say every eight years I'll read something this good. The last one was Oren Moverman's film "The Messenger."

Do you tend to avoid worrying too much about the business angle of movies?

Seeing is believing

I read you don't watch your films. Have you seen this?
Yeah, I actually watched the film! And I like it! It's the first one I've watched in years. But I don't enjoy watching what I do most of the time. I'm usually pretty disappointed with how it was handled. That's the hard truth about it. Filmmakers and financiers come under pressure to serve a certain result, and that's not necessarily the one we started with. I come in and I build, and sometimes they handle it well, and sometimes they don't. I try not to worry about it and move onto the next one. This, on the other hand, I'm going to go see again tonight, which is unheard-of.

I'm aware of it and I actively ignore it. I like building things. I'm a builder. I come in, I'm hired, I shoot the film. If they want me to come in and participate it's a privilege. It's exciting to build. But I can't think of it in business terms.

New on Netflix

MATT PRIGGE
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'NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN'

Before he wrote an actual screenplay (for the wildly underrated "The Counselor"), Cormac McCarthy wrote a book that basically read like a screenplay. You can't imagine gruesome grinders like "Child of God" or "Blood Meridian" as movies — that is, unless you're James Franco — but his 2005 novel reads like the thriller it two years later became. All the Coen brothers had to do was cut the right bits out. The result? One of the few Best Picture Oscar winners you could willingly kill a lazy Sunday watching, striking the right balance between pulp and profundity.

Javier Bardem's hair is still funny in the Coen brothers' "No Country for Old Men." PARAMOUNT

'MY GOLDEN DAYS'

Quentin Dolmaire and Lou Roy-Lecollinet are young and in love in "My Golden Days." MAGNOLIA PICTURES

The latest from French genius Arnaud Desplechin is a sequel that's also a prequel, and to a film you probably haven't seen. But don't let that discourage you. You should still watch his 1996 epic "My Sex Life ... or How I Got into an Argument," which is as terrific as its title. But its follow-up works fine as a stand-alone. Desplechin catches back up with one of his characters — neurotic romantic Paul Dedalus (Mathieu Amalric) — only to jump back to his youth and his first blush with terrible love. As a filmmaker, Desplechin is ravenous, filling the screen with acrobatic shots and a riot of details and pop music. It's a delirious watch, and a fine gateway into one of cinema's most hepped-up talents.

'THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS'

Has there ever been a franchise that mutated as often as the "Fast and/or Furious" movies? It must be a shock to a return to the first one — this little ditty from 2001 about two dudes who race cars and occasionally play cops and robbers. Somehow this modest little genre entry birthed the most ludicrous series on the planet, with the last entry boasting them jump-driving between two skyscrapers and The Rock wielding a helicopter gun. Look how much it's grown!

Vin Diesel and Paul Walker look so young in the first "The Fast and the Furious." UNIVERSAL PICTURES

From indies to Disney

Filmmaker David Lowery ("Ain't Them Bodies Saints") tells us how he wound up on "Pete's Dragon."

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Part of filmmaker David Lowery's new tasks on "Pete's Dragon" involved directing a movie with a CGI dragon (with Oakes Fegley in the foreground). DISNEY

Watching the moody 2013 indie crime drama "Ain't Them Bodies Saints," you probably wouldn't say, "The guy who made this should make a Disney movie about a flying green monster." And yet that's what happened. Director David Lowery wound up going to the big leagues with "Pete's Dragon," which is not only a very, very loose take on the 1977 Disney original, it's also an atypically modest and intimate summer movie, even with big names like Bryce Dallas Howard and Robert Redford.

GETTY IMAGES

Tell me what the transition is like going from small films to a big one.

You know, it didn't end up feeling different. It was exactly the same experience; it just lasted longer. [Laughs] You have a lot more time for prep — that's always a good thing. And then you have a much longer shoot, which is also a good thing, though it also wears you down. And then there was 13 months in postproduction, which was a bizarre experience for me. To focus on one thing for that long, that was new to me. I'm a short-attention-span kind of person.

What about helping the child actors act — and even have a deep friendship — with something that on set is sometimes just a tennis ball on a stick?

I'm going to throw that entirely into the "Oakes is an amazing actor" category. [Laughs] I knew we needed a child who could sustain that sort of communication with something that's not there. It really comes down to imagination. Luckily that's something kids have a lot of. I was a little worried, though. I had a lot of imagination, but kids these days, who have iPads and things I didn't have at their age, you think, 'Is there a deficit of imagination?' But that's not the case. They still have the capacity to imagine and to believe in something that's not there and to do so convincingly.

That is very refreshing that kids can still do that. I was worried they'd be lost in gadgets.

They have multitudes. As soon as we'd yell "cut" they'd get their iPads out. We had six kids, and they all became a team of best friends who were all competing on some iPad game I'd never heard of. But when they had to return to the scene, they'd switch whatever switch was inside their head that allows them to believe in magic. It was fantastic.

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Does cold brew have more kick?

Or are the effects all in your head?

KATE MOONEY
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In the summer, many habitual coffee drinkers make the switch to iced coffee, which goes down a lot easier than a hot, steaming cup of joe on a 90 degree day. A trendier option is cold-brewed coffee, which began as a niche among coffee snobs and has since gone mainstream, with chains like Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts adding it to their drink menus.

It's cold, refreshing and less acidic than hot coffee — the perfect start to a summer morning or pick-me-up on a sweaty afternoon. But does it have as much caffeine as other brewing methods? Or is that extra punch all in your head? Here are a few factors to consider.

Exacting and extracting

The ideal temperature at which to extract caffeine is between 195 and 205 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the Specialty Coffee Association of America's standards. So does that mean cold-brewed coffee is actually less caffeinated? It's not that simple. Other factors contribute, such as length of brewing time and the grounds-to-water ratio.

"Caffeine, ironically, is a rather slow-extracting ingredient," says Kevin Sinnott, author of "The Art and Craft of Coffee."

For cold brew, while temperatures remain far below boiling point, the coffee grinds steep in water for 10-24 hours at a higher grounds-to-water ratio — but as of yet, it hasn't been sufficiently researched to what extent that makes up for the potential drop in caffeine.

Mind over matter

Believe it or not, some of the effect of your caffeine intake is psychological. The actual amount of caffeine doesn't always align with your perception, Sinnott says. He cites espresso as a classic example of a placebo effect: People often experience a jolt of adrenaline from one shot, but in reality espresso has less caffeine than traditional drip coffee. "Never underestimate the possibility of the placebo effect or setting," says Sinnott. "I'll run into somebody who's just back from Hawaii and they'll say, 'Oh, I had the best cup of coffee I've ever had: a Kona coffee.' Hawaiian coffee is fine, but in the coffee industry it's not necessarily considered better than any other kind, but people associate it with vacation."

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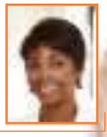

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Neal helps pace US swim team

The Brooklyn swimmer played a crucial role in the team's silver effort.

JASON DEVANEY
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Lia Neal, left, and the U.S. women's swim team prepare for competition in Rio. GETTY IMAGES

Amid the 33 medals American swimmers won at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics last week was the women's 4x100-meter freestyle relay team's silver captured on the opening night of competition.

It was USA Swimming's third medal in Rio and it capped a night that also included silvers in the men's (Chase Kalisz) and women's (Maya DiRado) 400-meter IM races.

Brooklyn native Lia Neal played a crucial role in the Americans' effort to earn silver in that relay.

On Aug. 6, less than 18 hours after the Rio Games were officially opened at Maracanã Stadium, Neal swam in the preliminary round of the women's 4x100-meter freestyle relay. The American squad was in the second of two heats and was comprised of Amanda Weir, Neal, Allison Schmitt, and Katie Ledecky.

With Neal's assistance, the fast foursome touched the wall second in its heat and entered the finals with the second fastest prelim time, giving them one of the two middle lanes in that evening's final.

"Obviously it's always an honor to represent Team USA, and I feel like the message of having an entire country behind us, having so many people support us — more people than we know — has really been drilled into our heads," Neal said during a USA Swimming interview last week. "That really makes me more appreciative of this opportunity."

After Weir gave the Americans a half-second lead following the opening leg in the prelims, Neal swam her lap in 53.63 seconds and left Schmitt with a slight advantage heading into the second half of the race. The Australians proved too strong and were the fastest to the wall, 3:32.39 to 3:33.59.

In the final later that night, Australia nipped the Americans (Ledecky, Simone Manuel, Dana Vollmer, and Abbey Weitzeil) for gold with an impressive world-record swim of 3:30.65.

For Neal, however, earning a silver medal was a step up from the bronze medal she took home from London four years ago in the same event.

"I remember in London, I was more excited than nervous to swim," Neal said. "This time when I was standing behind the blocks, I said, 'I'm a little nervous.' But also just as excited to swim as I was in London."

The U.S. swimming team dominated the opening week of the Olympics in Rio, taking nearly two dozen more medals than Australia, the second-placed team in the medal tally with 10. Included in the Americans' haul were 16 golds, eight silvers, and nine bronzes.

Connor Jaeger, another U.S. swimmer from the New York City area, also had a strong meet for the Americans. Hailing from Fair Haven, New Jersey, on the northern reaches of the shore, Jaeger opened his meet on the first day of competition with a fifth-place finish in the 400-meter freestyle and closed it on Saturday, the final day of pool swimming events, with a silver medal in the 1,500 meters — swimming's version of the mile.

The opening-day relay was Neal's only swim in Rio, so she spent the rest of the week in the stands cheering for her teammates — and subsequently losing her voice.

"It's so fun to be on the other side of it," she said.

MLB power rankings | by Ryan Hannable

No. 1

Cubs (73-43)

As it stands now, the Cubs are the odds-on favorites to win the World Series. They've won eight of 10 and lead the NL Central by a whopping 12 games.

No. 2

Nats (69-41)

The Nats are one of the hottest teams in the league as they've now won seven of 10 and have built an 8.5-game lead in the NL East. Washington and the Cubs look to be a cut above the rest in the NL.

No. 3

Rangers (69-50)

Texas has dropped two straight and while it made a number of moves at the deadline, it's hard to tell exactly what they are. They have a minus-1 run differential, which typically doesn't happen for playoff teams. Still, they lead the division by 5.5 games.

No. 4

Indians (67-48)

After slowing down for a few weeks, the Indians have kicked it into high gear as they have now won four straight and seven of their last 10. Mike Napoli has had a huge turnaround season as he has 84 RBIs.

No. 5

Blue Jays (67-51)

The Blue Jays lead the AL East by just a half a game, but they may be the team best equipped for the rest of the season. Along with their powerful offense, they are starting to get contributions from the mound as Aaron Sanchez owns a 2.84 ERA.

No. 6

Orioles (66-51)

It's been a solid all-around season for the O's as they have been steady throughout. Mark Trumbo and Manny Machado have been great, but the unsung hero has been reliever Zach Britton and his AL-leading 37 saves.

No. 7

Giants (66-51)

The Giants and Dodgers continue to go back and forth in the NL West, with San Fran clinging to a one-game lead. Madison Bumgarner's 2.11 ERA is currently second-best in the National League. This divisision race is highly intriguing.

No. 8

Dodgers (65-52)

Winners of six of their last 10, the Dodgers are closing the gap in the NL West. Everyone knows about Clayton Kershaw, but Kenly Jansen - who owns 35 saves on the season - has been spectacular as well.

No. 9

Red Sox (64-52)

The roller-coaster ride of the 2016 Red Sox has continued of late, but they are coming off a sweep of the Diamondbacks and are feeling good about themselves. Mookie Betts had his second three-homer game of the season on Sunday.

No. 10

Tigers (63-54)

A month ago it seemed impossible for the Tigers to reach the postseason, but they have been one of the hottest teams around recently and are making a run at the Wild Card. Michael Fulmer has a 2.25 ERA.

No. 17

Mets (59-58)

The Mets are just 2.5 games out in the Wild Card standings but they are staring up at the Dodgers, Cardinals, Marlins and Pirates. They need to clean-up against Arizona before a tough matchup against the Giants.

NFL legend Marino thinks Manning has strong shot at landing in Hall of Fame

Eli Manning has more Super Bowl rings than Hall of Famer Dan Marino

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The saying goes, "You can't spell elite without Eli." For Hall of Fame quarterback Dan Marino, the career of Giants quarterback Eli Manning might just land him in Canton someday among some elite pretty elite company.

The career of Manning, the four-time Pro Bowl quarterback of the New York Giants, is often scrutinized. This is in part due to the success of his older brother, arguably the best quarterback of all-time (whose name escapes us right now but he's really, really good). The younger brother suffers by comparison. By numbers alone, though, the Giants' QB is pretty good in his own right.

Eli is currently No. 11 in all-time passing yards and will likely be seventh by the end of the season in passing touchdowns, what would be one spot ahead of John Elway. He also is a two-time Super Bowl MVP with two championship rings. He is at or near the top of nearly every statistical record in Giants franchise history.

"The fact that he's won two Super Bowls, he definitely has a shot. I don't vote, [but] he definitely has a shot of getting in there," Marino told Metro. "As time goes on, the longer he plays, the better the opportunity he has."

The 2005 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee spoke at an event at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza in Englewood, New Jersey. Marino is a co-owner of the chain along, with founder Anthony Bruno.

Along with their famous wings, he said that the aptly named "Eggplant Marino" is his favorite menu item. The restaurant has nine locations in New Jersey.

Manning did not play on Friday night in the Giants preseason opener.

Giants continue AFC East tour

Saturday at 4 p.m., the Giants head to Buffalo to face their second of four AFC East opponents this preseason.

Last Friday they fell at home, 27-10, to the Dolphins. This coming weekend they'll face the Bills. In Preseason Week's 3 and 4 Big Blue travels to play the Jets before hosting the Patriots.

To many, Eli Manning is a borderline candidate to be enshrined in Canton. GETTY IMAGES

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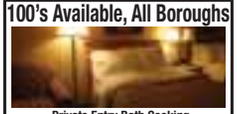
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, DOING BUSINESS AS CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLEY AS TRUSTEE FOR BCAT 2014-12TT, Plaintiff, vs. XUE DONG QIN A/K/A XUEDONG QIN; JUN TU, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on January 04, 2016, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Courthouse, Courtroom 25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY on September 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., premises known as 46-32 218th Street, Bayside, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate lying and being in the Borough of Queens, County of Queens, City and State of New York, Block 7344 and Lot 30. Approximate amount of judgment is $892,150.04 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 11896/10.

Joseph J. Risi, Esq. Referee

Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP 565 Taxter Road, Ste. 590 Elmsford, NY 10523 Attorneys for Plaintiff.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Humbleton LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/18/2016. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC c/o 1826 East 9th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11223. Purpose: Real Estate Investing.

Success Academies is accepting proposals for Food Service Management at seven (7) schools during the 2016-17 school year. Contract will run from August 22, 2016 – June 30, 2017. The deadline for submitting proposals is August 22, 2016 at 2:00 pm. Bids will be publicly opened at 95 Pine St., Floor 6, NY, NY 10005 on August 22, 2016 at 2:00 pm. Copies of the RFP are available by request from Bob Keogh at bob@schoolfoodsolutions.org.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1295772, for Eating Place Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer at retail in a Chinese Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at: 5820 7th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11220, for on-premises consumption. Heng Kang Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1296495, for Restaurant Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Chinese Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at: 610 8th Ave., New York, NY 10018, for on-premises consumption. Kung Fu Kitchen Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Serial # 1296418, for Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 195 10th Ave., New York, NY 10011. New York County, for on premise consumption. Sonny Lou Inc.

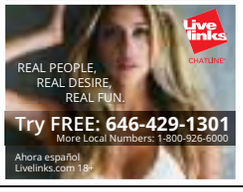
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Serial # 1295212, for Liquor, Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 153 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10023. New York County, for on premise consumption. 153 Amsterdam Rest LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 2204907, for Beer, Wine & Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Wine & Liquor at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 2430 FDR Drive, New York, NY 10010. New York County, for on-premises consumption. New York Fishing Adventures Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1295442, for Beer, Wine & Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 399 Grand Street, New York, NY 10002, for on-premises consumption. Saluggi's East Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1295429, has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail in a Hotel under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 37-06 36th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101, for on-premises consumption. Paper Factory Café LLC d/b/a Paper Factory Café.

ENTERTAINMENT



JOBS

Education

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Pharmacy Tech (PTCB) • Dialysis Technician
Nurse Assistant (CNA) • EKG & Phlebotomy Combo
Patient Care Technician (CPCT)
Medical Billing (CBCS) • Med Off Administration (CMAA)
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Across

1 Where to find a drone
5 — de deux
8 Branch
12 Martini extra
14 Backpack
15 Mr. Moto's reply (2 wds.)
16 Tee partner
17 Indigo plant
18 Popular beverage
19 Ennobling
21 Bounced off the walls
23 Forum hello
24 Gene material
25 A gal. has eight
26 "Bugsy" star
30 Bum off of
32 Kelp
33 Cut into strips, as carrots
37 Disparaging remark
38 Whittled down
39 Punctually
40 Tea clippers' concern
42 Pretty in Paris
43 Uh-oh!
44 Greeted the moon
45 Strangelove and No
48 Insult, slangily
49 Cartoon mice -- and Meek
50 Thoreau's pond
52 Mariachis, mostly
57 Adams or Brickell
58 It had three parts
60 Prickly pear
61 Shortage
62 WWW addresses
63 Mural undercoat
64 Pine
65 Cobbler
66 Lowest high tide

Down

1 Ice-fishing need
2 Holly, in botany
3 "— Zapata!"
4 Like Mr. Hyde
5 Twinge
6 Left Bank friend
7 Excellent
8 RPM meter
9 Rodeo yell
10 Cay
11 Incites
13 All you own
14 Masterson prop
20 University wall covering
22 Pet shop buy
24 Broad valleys
26 Some party!
27 La femme
28 Water, in Baja
29 Overdue
30 Miss Muffet's treat
31 Provide capital
33 Russell and Pauley
34 Not in effect
35 Journalist — Ducommun
36 Applied henna
38 Speaking (2 wds.)
41 Roomy
42 Not serious
44 Jinx
45 Harped on
46 Colonel Potter's aide
47 Pizza order
49 Electric swimmers
51 Hockey feint
52 Pack animal
53 Joel or Ethan
54 Nave neighbor
55 Blast-off org.
56 Tramp through mud
59 "Exodus" hero

metro.us/sudoku

easy

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6				8	1		5	9
3				4	2			
	5				4	1	8	
	6	2				5	3	
	8	4	7				9	
			8	1				3
4	7		5	2				6
			4					

hard

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			1			2	7	
				9	6	4		
	2		9	6	1			4
	4						2	
1			4	2	7		9	
		8	5	3				
	6	1			2			
9	3					5		

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries An enthusiasm for experimentation accompanied by hard work and discipline will pay off. Giving back to your community by volunteering your time will also lead to new friendships.

Taurus Don't give in to emotional manipulation or be made to feel guilty. Surround yourself with people who think the same way you do. Listen to an expert and apply what you learn.

Gemini You won't see eye-to-eye with the people you interact with. Listen carefully and go about your business. You'll gain the most by working alone. Avoid temptation.

Cancer Go with the flow and see what happens. Your ability to adapt to the changes going on around you will be to your benefit. A romantic gesture is encouraged.

Leo Network with peers and share your experience. Don't let the actions of others upset you or cause you to leave your plans incomplete. Believe in yourself and what you have to offer.

Virgo Participate in events that involve colleagues or deal with changes going on in your industry. The people you meet will expand your knowledge and give you insight.

Libra If you listen to what your emotions are trying to tell you, you will know exactly what you have to do. A positive personal change will occur through communication with an expert.

Scorpio Expressing your feelings will give others the opportunity to share theirs as well. Together, you can find solutions that will help you move forward without fear, uncertainty or regret.

Sagittarius Consider your income options and look for alternatives that will help you make more doing something you enjoy or are good at. A change of location or of colleagues is favored.

Capricorn You can offer someone help, but not at the expense of forgoing a chance to make personal gains. Make suggestions, but don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you.

Aquarius Put energy and enthusiasm behind your plans in order to improve your current work situation. Taking on additional responsibility will impress someone influential.

Pisces A situation you face will require patience, understanding and the time and space to unfold naturally in order to turn out favorably. Good things will develop. EUGENIA LAST

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